

line 18, delete "1" and insert --1--;

line 24, delete "y";

line 32, delete "1" and insert --1--.

Page 8, line 16, delete "for" and insert --four--.

Page 11, line 2, insert --What is claimed is:--.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

B' 1. (Amended) Joint arrangement for a surface structure, [such as a protecting plate, element or the like,] which surface structure is meant [particularly] for covering of ground together with one or several other surface structures for temporary protecting[,] and coating [and/or like] of the ground, whereby in connection with each surface structure there has been arranged at least a joint arrangement for removable attachment of one or several adjacent surface structures [to the same] and thermal insulation (1), that comprises at least one, essentially plastic-based[, such as cellular, expanded, foamed plastic structured or a like] thermal insulation layer (1'), whereby the joint arrangement comprises a joint piece (x), that is to be coupled by means of a locking assembly (y), for coupling of the adjacent surface structures with each other essentially by corners of the [same] surface structures, which joint piece (x) comprises [known as such] a right-angled[, such as a square shaped] frame part, whereby the locking assembly (y) is arranged by projections (y1) placed at the corners of the frame part and [preferably] by recesses (y2) of the same shape, that are placed underside the surface structure, and whereby to the bottom surface of the surface structure there has been arranged [preferably] an integral support arrangement (1a), that comprises a platform structure projecting [from the] beyond a basic wall thickness (s) of the surface structure, [such as the thermal insulation layer (1'),] **characterized** in, that [the] a frame part (x1) of the

joint piece (x)[, that] has an open center[, such as a framework-like structure] and is arranged to pass [the] recesses (1a') existing in the platform structure [(1a)], whereby the height of the recesses is arranged to correspond essentially at least to the thickness (h) of the frame part (x1).

cont.  
B<sup>1</sup>  
2. (Amended) Joint arrangement according to claim 1, **characterized** in, that the platform structure (1a) is arranged by single and square shaped platforms (1a"), that are placed [preferably all] over the bottom surface of the surface structure, whereby the framepart (x1) of the joint piece is arranged to embed [preferably] four platforms (1a").

PC3  
B<sup>2</sup>  
4. (Twice-amended) Joint arrangement according to claim 1 in an essentially square shaped surface structure, whereby the joint arrangement comprises coupling means (z)[, such as] having male-female couplers (z1, z2) [being] placed at the outer edges of the surface structures, **characterized in**, that both the male and female couplers (z1, z2) are arranged at opposite outer edges of the surface structure.

PC5  
B<sup>3</sup>  
6. (Twice-amended) Joint arrangement according to claim 4, characterized in, that the male and female couplers (z1, z2) comprise an auxiliary support/sealing assembly (z3)[, that is carried out by such as] having counterpart surfaces [or the like being] placed at the upper edge of the outer surface of the surface structure at an angle ( $\alpha$ ), [that] which deviates essentially from the vertical direction, [preferably at an angle of 15°,] and [being] the counterpart surfaces are directed to either opposite directions [and/]or to the same direction [in] with respect to the surface structure.

Kindly add the following new claims:

7. A temporary ground covering, comprising:  
a plurality of surface structures each having a substantially planar top surface of thermal insulation and a bottom surface from which support projections extend;

a joint means for removably connecting the plurality of surface structures;

said joint means forming a parallelogram frame structure with an open center that receives one support projection from each of the surface structures; and

said joint means having four locking means, projecting from and forming an essentially normal angle with a substantially planar surface of the frame structure at each corner, each for interlocking with a corresponding recess member formed in a bottom surface corner of one attached surface structure, wherein

said support projections of each support structure lift the surface structure to form a gap between the ground surface and portions of the bottom surface not having support projections extending beneath them, and

the height of each support projection corresponds essentially with the thickness of the frame structure.

--8. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the frame structure is formed to receive a support projection from each of four surface structures attached to the joint means.

--9. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the joint means has eight locking means, two at each corner of the frame structure, and

the two locking means at each corner of the frame structure interlock with two corresponding recess members formed in a bottom surface corner of one attached surface structure.

--10. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the top surface of each surface structure is essentially square shaped; and  
each surface structure has a coupling means, having a male coupler or a female coupler arranged on each side edge of the surface structure with the male and female